Participation in Management."

During 1996-97 Central Board for Workers Education conducted six training courses (one at National level and five at Regional level). During 1997-98, Central Board for Workers Education conducted 47 training courses (one at National level and 46 at Regional level). During 1998-99, Central Board for Workers Education will conduct 26 training courses (Two at National level and 24 at Regional level).

Agricultural Labour in the Country

79. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of agricultural labour in the country; and

(b) when will Government bring a comprehensive Bill in Parliament to fix minimum wages and other amenities for these workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of agricultural workers in the country according to 1991 census is 74,597, 744 (excluding Jammu and & Kashmir).

(b) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 which provides for fixation and revision of minimum wages is also applicable to agricultural workers. Further, a proposal for enactment of a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural workers is under active consideration of the Government in consultation with other Minister/Department.

It would be difficult at this stage to indicate the exact duration this process may take.

Unemployment in Orissa

80. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing unemployment in the undivided KBK (Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi) districts in Orissa;

(b) whether in large scale migration is taken place due to that reason;

(c) whether Government propose to provide security to the people migrating to other States from the KBK districts in search of jobs; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of wages to Plantation Workers

81. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual wages being paid to plantation workers are far below the minimum wages;

(a) whether there are disparities in actual wages in different sectors of plantation workers from State to State; and

(c) whether Government propose to constitute a Wage Board for plantation workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Sir, under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, State Governments are the appropriate Government for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for different sectors of plantation workers. Various State Governments have, therefore, fixed minimum wage for plantation workers by taking into account of prevailing socio-economic factor which influence real wages in the region. Such Minimum Wages fixed for the plantation workers differ from State to State. However, disparities in minimum wages between different states of the same region are discussed in the Regional Labour Ministers' Conferences and necessary remedial steps are taken.

Whenever violation of these provisions is noticed, enforcement machinery of the concerned State takes appropriate action against the defaulter under relevant law.

(c) At present Government does not have a proposal to constitute Wage Board for plantation workers.

Locking up of Labour Contribution in Sick Units

82. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over Rs. 500